

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00267 120629Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 DOTE-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 FMC-01 CG-00 /103 W

----- 004748

R 101350Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3331

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 267

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, SF, MZ

SUBJECT: LOURENCO MARQUES AND U.S. CHROME ORE SUPPLY

REF: PRETORIA 854 (NOTAL)

1. SAR ASSISTANCE OUTLINED REFTEL WILL BE MOST WELCOME FOR LONG-RUN IMPROVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA-MOZAMBIQUE RAILROAD CONNECTION. CFM DIRECTOR PINTO TEIXEIRA INFORMED ME RECENTLY THAT TRACT DISREPAIR, LACK OF LOCOMOTIVES, AND POOR SIGNALLING SYSTEM HAD INCREASED TURNAROUND TIME OF TRAINS BETWEEN KOMATIPOORT TO LOURENCO MARQUES FROM 7 HOURS TO UP TO 17 HOURS AND CAUSED FREQUENT ACCIDENTS ALONG LINE. COMPLETE RENEWAL OF TRACT AND SIGNALLING SYSTEM WILL TAKE ONE YEAR. AS TEMPORARY MEASURE, TRAINS WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH RADIOS INSTEAD OF RELYING ON CURRENT SIGNALLING SYSTEMS.

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WM WITH REGARD TO SHORT-TERM SOLUTION TO US CHROME SUPPLY PROBLEM, PINTO TEIXEIRA INDICATED BEST SOLUTION WAS TO PERSUADE SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME EXPORTERS TO PERMIT SAR TO SEND SMALL QUANTITIES OF CHROME TO MEET SPECIFIC LOADING REQUIREMENTS OF SHIPS WAITING IN LOURENCO MARQUES. IN THIS WAY, PAST LOGJAMS CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE TRAINLOADS OF CHROME, REQUIRING CONSIDERABLE SHUNTING AND STOCKPILING AT MINERAL ORE PORT, COULD BE AVOIDED.

3. LOCAL SHIPPING AGENT INFORMS US COMPROMISE AGREEMENT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN REACHED WITH SOUTH AFRICAN SHROME EXPORTERS IN WHICH 70 PERCENT OF CHROME SHIPMENTS WOULD GO TO MEET SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF SHIP AT HEAD OF LINE IN LOURENCO MARQUES AND 30 PERCENT WOULD GO TO STOCKPILE AS IN PAST. SHIPPING AGENT IS CONFIDENT COMPROMISE SOLUTION WILL CLEAR UP CHROME BOTTLENECK.

WALKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHROMIUM, DIESEL ENGINES, ROLLING STOCK
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LOUREN00267
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750086-0130
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750367/aaaachzt.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRETORIA 854
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOURENCO MARQUES AND U.S. CHROME ORE SUPPLY
TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, SF, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006